

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1 – 11 (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) A discharge device for use in a vessel for storing particulate matter, comprising a converging outer shell and a permeable, converging inner shell positioned in the outer shell, the inner shell comprising an upper rim, wherein the inner shell is secured at or near its upper rim to an inner wall of the outer shell forming a connection between the inner shell and the outer shell, wherein the connection between the inner shell and the outer shell is sealed by means of a gasket and is contained within the outer shell.

13. (Previously Presented) The discharge device of claim 12, wherein the inner shell has been attached to the inner wall of the outer shell.

14. (Previously Presented) The discharge device of claim 13, comprising a flange forming the upper rim of the outer shell, the inner shell being attached to an inner wall of this flange.

15. (Previously Presented) The discharge device of claim 14, wherein the upper rim of the inner shell extends at least substantially flush with the upper rim of the said flange.

Claims 16 - 22 (Canceled).

23. (Previously Presented) The discharge device of claim 12 for use in a vessel for storing particulate matter, wherein the particulate matter comprises at least one of pulverized coal and fly ash.

24. (Currently Amended) A vessel for storing particulate matter, comprising a main part and, at a bottom portion thereof, at least one discharge device, which comprises a converging outer shell and a permeable, converging inner shell positioned in the outer shell, the inner shell comprising an upper rim, the discharge device being connected to the main part by means of a

first flange at or near a lower rim of the bottom portion of the main part and a second flange at or near an upper rim of the outer shell, whereby the inner shell is secured at or near its upper rim to the inner wall of the outer shell of the discharge device thus forming a connection between the inner shell and the outer shell, wherein the connection between the inner shell and the outer shell is sealed by means of a gasket and is contained within the outer shell.

25. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 24, wherein the inner shell has been attached to an inner wall of the second flange.

26. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 25, wherein the inner shell is secured at or near its upper rim to the inner wall of the outer shell by means of at least one lug or ring provided on the inner wall of the second flange, to which lug or ring the inner shell is attached, whereby the gasket is positioned between the lug or ring and the inner shell.

27. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 24, wherein an element for matching an inner wall of the main part of the vessel to an inner wall of the inner shell has been attached to an inner wall of the first flange.

28. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 24, wherein the upper rim of the inner shell extends at least substantially flush with the face of the second flange.

Claims 29 - 35 (Canceled).